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REMARKS

Claims 1-24 are pending in the present application. Claim 3 has been cancelled, without prejudice, and claims 4 and 18 have been amended, without prejudice, to expedite the allowance of the application.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the indication by the Examiner that claims 1, 2, 9-17 and 19-24 were allowed.

Applicant also gratefully acknowledges the indication by the Examiner that claims 4-8 recite patentable subject matter.

Applicant has cancelled, without prejudice, claim 3 and amended claim 4 to include the elements recited in previously pending claim 3. Applicant has also amended claim 18 to depend from claim 4.

It is believed that pending claims 1, 2 and 4-24 are in condition for allowance.

Although Applicant has cancelled, without prejudice, claim 3 and amended, without prejudice, claims 4 and 18, Applicant does not necessarily agree or disagree with the Examiner's characterization of the documents made of record, either alone or in combination, or the Examiner's characterization of recited claim elements. For example, the Examiner alleged that the Zarembowitch patent describes "an error correction circuit for carrying out an error correction operation on said codeword using error correction information provided by said plurality of phase synchronizers" as set forth in claim 18. In the Office Action, the Examiner alleges that the Zarembowitch patent describes "detection circuits ... to identify a correct code". Office Action at page 3. However, the Examiner appears to confuse error "correction" as set forth in claim 18 with "detection" as allegedly described in the Zarembowitch patent. In closing, Applicants respectfully reserve the right to argue the characterization of the documents of record, either alone or in combination, or the characterization of recited claim elements should that need arise in the future.

Should anything remain in order to place the present application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Appln. No. 09/832,435
Amdt. dated May 22, 2006
In Reply to Office Action of Feb. 22, 2006

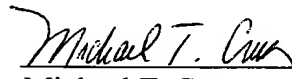


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The Commissioner is authorized to charge ~~unpaid~~ required fees not paid herewith or to credit any overpayment to the Deposit Account of McAndrews, Held & Malloy, Ltd., Account No. 13-0017.

Dated: May 22, 2006

Respectfully submitted,



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